

TMD-94-00-2
Eileen S. Stommes, Deputy Administrator
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Fax: 202-690-4632

Dear Ms. Stommes:

I am writing in response to the proposed National Organic Standards to let you know that I do not want genetically engineered organisms, processing agents, or agricultural inputs to be allowed in organic farming and handling under any circumstances—even on a case-by-case basis. I also ask that you prohibit the use of ionizing radiation and biosolids (municipal sludge) in organic farming and handling. And, I ask that the standard for the treatment of livestock and the fee structure for certification be consistent with the recommendations of the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB).

My specific objections are as follows:

1. Genetically engineered organisms (GEOs):

There simply isn't enough scientific information to judge what long-term effects GEOs and their products would have on the environment. I want a choice in the marketplace, and I want an organic label that means no GEOs.

2. Ionizing Radiation:

The use of ionizing radiation is not compatible with a system of organic farming and handling. There are effective alternatives to ionizing radiation, such as sanitary practices that are compatible with a system of organic farming and handling. I want an organic label that means no ionizing radiation.

3. Biosolids (municipal sludge):

The use of biosolids is not acceptable, as the long-term impact on environment and human health is unknown at this time. I have and want to continue having choices in the marketplace and I want an organic label that means no use of biosolids.

4. Organic Livestock:

The irresponsible use of antibiotics should be tightly controlled. I want the use of hormones and steroids to be severely restricted. I want the use of rendered animals as feed to herbivore animals banned. I want to have a choice in the marketplace that assures that animals raised without these controls are available to me.

The NOSB represents a broad consensus of organic farmers, manufacturers, and consumers regarding principles of organic agriculture and foods production. Regulations that do not reflect the NOSB's recommendations on genetic engineering, ionizing radiation, biosolids, the needs of the small farmer, and the treatment of animals will gravely weaken my confidence in the organic label, as well as threaten the viability of the natural foods industry. I ask that you establish the National Organic Standards Board as the primary body governing organic standards now and in the future.

Thank you for including my input in your final decision.

Sincerely,